

## **NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS**

### **Greetings:**

New Zealanders generally greet with a handshake or, if they know each other well, a hug. In formal situations, men often wait for women to offer their hand before shaking.

Pakeha greet formally with *Hello, how are you?* More informal greetings include *Hello* or *Hi*. Also common are *Gidday* (Good day), *Yeah*, *Gidday*, or *Gidday, How's it going?*

Maori may greet with a hug or a traditional *hongi*—pressing noses together with eyes closed. The *hongi* is used with non-Maori on a *marae*, the sacred space in front of a Maori *wharenui* (great house). Maori greeting phrases include the ceremonial *Nau mai* (Welcome). *Tena koe*, *Tena korua*, and *Tena koutou* are polite ways to say “Hello” to one, two, or many people, respectively. *Kia ora* (Be well) is a more common and less formal hello in predominantly English-speaking environments; it can also mean “Thank you.” Upon parting, Maori may say *Haere ra* (Farewell) and reply *E noho ra* (Stay well). An increasingly common and less formal good-bye is *Ka kite ano* (See you later).

### **Gestures:**

New Zealanders often supplement their conversation with hand gestures. If conversation is not possible or polite, a nod, wave, or raise of the eyebrows serves as a sign of recognition.

Traditional social courtesy is valued but not necessarily practiced by all segments of the population. Most younger women do not expect traditional courtesies from men (and some may find them patronizing).

Personal space usually is important during conversation; standing too close is uncomfortable for many people.

### **Holidays:**

Public holidays include New Year's (1–2 Jan.); Waitangi Day (6 Feb.), for the 1840 treaty; Easter (including Good Friday and Easter Monday); Anzac Day (25 Apr.), to honor the armed forces and war dead; Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday (first Monday in June); Labour Day (fourth Monday in October); Christmas; and Boxing Day (26 Dec.). Boxing Day comes from a British tradition of giving small boxed gifts to service workers or the poor. Each province celebrates an Anniversary Day..